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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

JANUARY, 1844.

CLAIMS OF PEACE ON LITERARY MEN.—No. 5.

WAR has ever had a fearful ubiquity of influence. The chief business and boast of the world, it has moulded the character of every age and clime. The first minds even of Christendom have been educated under its delusions. The press, the pulpit, the school, the fireside, all have conspired to breathe into the young more or less of its spirit, and train them to the admiration and support of the system. They have been taught to look upon it as the great theatre of glory, as an essential part of society and government. All the power of custom, all the authority of age, all the fascinations of beauty, all the sanctions of religion, all the charms of music and poetry, the utmost efforts of the pen, the pencil and the chisel, have combined to throw a most delusive coloring over the abominations of war, and thus to beguile the young, the ardent and the gifted into a passionate fondness, or profound respect for war.

But on whom rests the chief responsibility of a result so deplorable? Not on the mass of common minds, for they are only dupes and victims; but on men of letters as the educators of mankind, and the eulogists of this bloody and barbarous custom. They have been the leading agents in perpetuating its strange, its guilty and fatal delusions. Their utmost powers they have tasked to prepare the Circean cup of war. Their genius, learning and taste they have prostituted to its service, and done more than all other classes in society to keep it alive through Christendom. They have written its histories; they have composed its songs and ballads; they have emblazoned the warrior's deeds, and trumpeted his fame through the world. They have been the high-priests of war to cultivated minds, and breathed its spirit into the literature of every age. Almost every seminary of learning they have made a nursery of war, and filled our libraries with works too well calculated to perpetuate its reign of guilt and terror.

For such wrongs a large atonement is due from literary men. This whole war process must be reversed; and only men of letters can repair or counteract the evil done by their predecessors of a hundred generations. They alone can furnish the needful antidote to the wide-spread poison of war. It is for them to strip off the rich and gorgeous drapery of delusion which genius has thrown over its manifold abominations; for them to dissect its rotten-cored philosophy, to expose its heartless sophistries, and silence its cold-blooded arguments; for them to show its glaring contrariety to nature, reason and revelation; for them to gage, if that be possible, the real dimensions of this gigantic sin, to collect the statistics of its mighty mischief for two worlds, and paint its atrocities and woes in such

colors as shall rouse every Christian community to the work of its speedy, utter, everlasting extinction.

The cause demands a variety of services from men of letters. "Let one take up the question of war in its principle, and make the full weight of his moral severity rest upon it, and upon all its abominations. Let another take up the question of war in its consequences, and bring all his powers of graphical description to the task of presenting an awakened public with an impressive detail of its cruelties and its horrors. Let another neutralize the poetry of war, and dismantle it of all those bewitching splendors which the hand of misguided genius has thrown over it. Let another teach the world a truer and more magnanimous path to national glory than any country of the world has yet walked in. Let another tell with irresistible argument how the Christian ethics of a nation are at one with the Christian ethics of its humblest individual. Let another pour the light of modern speculation into the mysteries of trade, and prove that not a single war has been undertaken for any of its objects, where the millions, and the millions more which were lavished on the cause, have not been cheated away from us by the phantom of an imaginary interest."*

But services still more important are needed in the cause of peace. The pacific spirit of the gospel is yet to be infused into the literature and religion, the governments and intercourse, the rulers and people of all Christian nations. The history of the world, now a virtual eulogy of war and warriors, ought to be written anew, and made a faithful mirror to reflect such an image of the guilt and miseries inseparable from this custom, as shall excite deep, universal abhorrence. We need a new literature, the literature of peace, or a thoroughly expurgated edition of all the classics both ancient and modern. The ethics of the gospel must be dug out from the rubbish of centuries, and made to bear upon a custom which embraces in its elements or legitimate effects every species of sin that depravity ever committed. Public opinion on this whole subject must be thoroughly Christianized; and the press, the pulpit, every nursery of sentiment and character, must be enlisted in this work of reform. Education through all its departments, must become a handmaid of peace, and the main influences of Christendom turned into this channel.

Such services can be performed only by cultivated minds; but all this they can do for the cause of peace, if they will. They are the law-givers of public opinion. They are the guardians of education, and preside over all the nurseries of intellect and learning. They write our books; they edit our periodicals; they frame our codes of law; they shape our forms of government; they teach our academies, colleges and professional seminaries. They are the leading educators of society. They cast the mould of the civilized world. Their character puts them, of course, in all the high places of influence. They are physicians, and lawyers, and judges, and ministers of the gospel, and teachers of all the first minds in Christendom. They cannot help leaving a deep impress of themselves on the world; no class in society can exert a tithe of their influence on the mass of mankind; and it is in their power to make wars cease, in this very age, from every civilized nation.

Surely, then, the cause of peace has strong claims, not only on men of letters in general, but especially on students in our seminaries of learning. There is even now slumbering there moral power sufficient to revolutionize the war-sentiments of all Christendom; and this power ought forthwith to be put in requisition for the accomplishment of a reform so devoutly to be wished. Coming from the first families in the land, moving in the higher circles of society, and occasionally going forth to teach in academies and common schools, they might, even during the course of their education, easily perform for the cause of peace services of vital importance; but

* Chalmers.

when they enter upon the stage of public action, and take the place of those who are now guiding the helm of state, giving law to public opinion, and shaping the character and destiny of the world, they will be able to exert in its behalf a still wider and more powerful influence. As teachers, editors and authors; as expounders of law, or professors of the healing art; as preachers of the gospel, or guardians of society and government, they will hold in their hands the main-springs of the world, and could, if they would, so far saturate the public mind with a love of peace, and abhorrence of war, as to prevent this scourge from ever returning upon civilized nations.

We commend this cause, then, to the special attention of students in all our higher seminaries of learning. Their character, their circumstances, their pursuits, their own interests, their obligations to society and to God, all demand it of them. Examine the subject then for yourselves; you will find it full of unexpected interest. Read and reflect upon it at your leisure. Discuss it in your literary associations. Try your powers upon it both in prose and verse. Make it a topic of frequent conversation; and fully resolve so far to master the whole subject, and so deeply to imbue yourselves with its spirit, that you will feel self-impelled to its earnest, habitual advocacy, and be well prepared in future life to plead with success, the claims of an enterprise so vital to the welfare of all mankind for time and eternity.

ERASMUS.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

OUR PUBLIC DEBTS.

Maine,.....	1,678,363	{ Mississippi,.....	7,500,000
Massachusetts,.....	7,372,839	{ Tennessee,.....	2,516,916
New York,.....	26,652,263	{ Kentucky,.....	3,401,500
Pennsylvania,.....	36,331,839	{ Ohio,.....	17,119,829
Maryland,.....	15,213,184	{ Indiana,.....	15,239,146
Virginia,.....	8,253,130	{ Michigan,.....	5,000,000
South Carolina,.....	5,260,900	{ Illinois,.....	17,846,130
Georgia,.....	1,460,930	{ Missouri,.....	1,259,000
Alabama,.....	10,859,536	{ Arkansas,.....	3,600,000
Louisiana,.....	24,530,270		
Total States,.....			212,474,036
United States,.....			18,000,000
			239,474,936

About 240,000,000. The States of Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Delaware, New Jersey, and North Carolina, seven States, have comparatively no debt. The annual interest at six per cent. would be nearly \$14,400,000, and at five per cent., about \$12,400,000. Some of our people complain loudly of a debt so large; but it is only about the sixteenth part of England's debts! Ours, too, were all, or nearly all, incurred for useful, important purposes, while hers were all wasted upon war.

MARITIME POSSESSIONS OF ENGLAND.—The colonies of the British empire have an area of 2,200,000 square miles, and a sea coast of 20,000 nautical miles. Population 105,000,000, with an average of fifty mouths to the square mile. Of Lutherans and Calvinists, there are 800,000; of Dissenters, 700,000; of Roman Catholics, Greeks, Syrians, &c., 1,500,000; of Mahomedans, 26,000,000; of Hindoos, 75,000,000. The military strength employed is 56,000 European regulars; 156,000 colonial (colored) regulars; and 250,000 colonial militia (whites). The colonial revenues amount to £23,000,000 sterling; the civil and convict expenses defrayed by Great Britain to £225,000; the military to £1,800,000; and the total expenditure of the colonies is therefore £25,000,000 sterling per annum. The taxation averages 4s. 6d. per head. The metallic money circulating in the colonies is about £5,000,000, and the paper money about £3,000,000. Maritime commerce of the colonies—Exports, £30,000,000; imports,